



# Iowa Ag News – Labor



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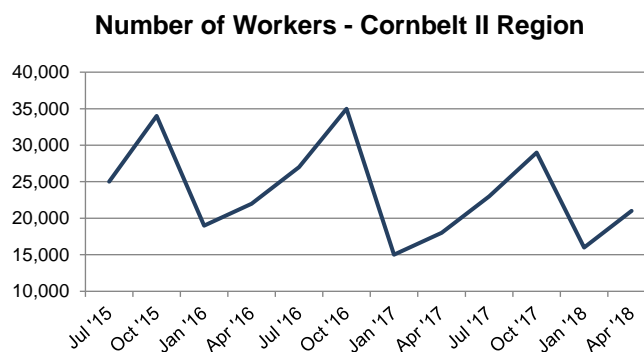
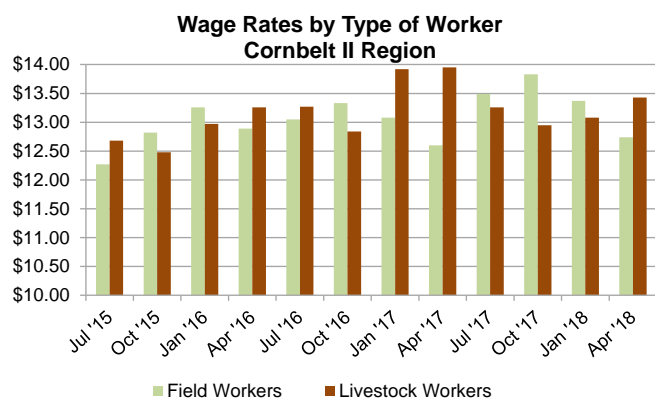
Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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There were 16,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri) during the reference week of January 7-13, 2018, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Farm Labor Report*. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.85 per hour, up \$0.03 from January 2017. The number of hours worked averaged 32.8 for hired workers during the reference week, compared with 35.3 hours in January 2017.

During the reference week of April 8-14, 2018, there were 21,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Cornbelt II Region (Iowa and Missouri). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.64 per hour during the April 2018 reference week, up \$0.23 from April 2017. The number of hours worked averaged 31.7 for hired workers during the reference week, down from 37.2 hours in April 2017.



## Hired Workers, Hours Worked and Wage Rates – Cornbelt II Region and United States: 2017-2018

[Cornbelt II Region includes Iowa and Missouri]

	Cornbelt II Region			United States		
	April 2017	January 2018	April 2018	April 2017	January 2018	April 2018
Hired workers on farms..... 1,000 workers	18	16	21	673	534	648
Hours worked by hired workers ..... hours per week	37.2	32.8	31.7	40.4	38.0	40.2
Wage rate <sup>1</sup>						
Field and livestock combined..... dollars per hour	13.15	13.20	13.05	12.32	12.86	12.74
Field ..... dollars per hour	12.60	13.37	12.74	12.22	12.84	12.72
Livestock ..... dollars per hour	13.95	13.08	13.43	12.53	12.89	12.78
All hired workers ..... dollars per hour	13.41	13.85	13.64	13.23	14.08	13.72

<sup>1</sup> Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

## UNITED STATES LABOR

There were 648,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of April 8-14, 2018, down 4 percent from the April 2017 reference week. Workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 534,000 during the week of January 7-13, 2018, up slightly from the January 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$13.72 per hour during the April 2018 reference week, up 4 percent from the April 2017 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$12.72 per hour, an increase of 4 percent. Livestock workers earned \$12.78 per hour, up 2 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.74 per hour, was up 3 percent from the 2017 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 40.2 hours during the April 2018 reference week, down slightly from the hours worked during the April 2017 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.08 per hour during the January 2018 reference week, up 5 percent from the January 2017 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$12.84 per hour, up 6 percent, while livestock workers earned \$12.89 per hour, up 2 percent from a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.86 per hour, was up 4 percent from the January 2017 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 38.0 hours during the January 2018 reference week, equaling the hours worked during the January 2017 reference week.

### April Reference Week

For the April 2018 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Cornbelt I (Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio), Cornbelt II (Iowa and Missouri), and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont), regions. The Cornbelt I and Cornbelt II regions saw the largest increases, each with 17 percent more workers on regional farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. Appalachian II saw the biggest decline, with workers down 25 percent from the 2017 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming), Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.

### January Reference Week

For the January 2018 reference week, the largest percentage increases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Hawaii, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), and Northeast I (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont) regions. The Northeast I region saw the largest increase, with 40 percent more workers on the region's farms.

The largest percentage decreases in the number of hired workers from the 2017 reference week occurred in the Florida, Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina) regions. The Southeast region saw the biggest decline, with workers down 35 percent from the 2017 reference week.

The largest percentage increases in average wage rates for all hired workers occurred in the California, Mountain II, and Mountain III (Arizona and New Mexico) regions.